

REMARKS

Affirmation of Election

Applicants hereby affirm the provisional election noted in the Office Action. Withdrawn claims 54-55 are canceled by this Amendment.

Independent Claim 42

Claim 42 recites a keyboard with 26 keys that are each labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and with an assigned number.

This is not suggested by Nokia's User's Manual in view of Nishimoto. Although Nokia's keyboard (Fig. 2-11) does have 26 letter keys, none of them has, or is labeled with, an assigned number as claimed. Nishimoto (Fig. 11) discloses a telephone keypad with ten number keys, eight of them labeled with both a number and a letter. The skilled person would be dissuaded from adding Nishimoto's numbers to Nokia's letter keys, because Nokia's keyboard already has ten designated number keys. So the skilled person would consider it redundant and confusing to label Nokia's letter keys with numbers too.

Furthermore, even if the skilled person did add Nishimoto's numbers to Nokia's letter keys, he would not arrive at the device of claim 42. That is because claim 42 requires labeling all 26 keys with numbers. Nishimoto teaches labeling only ten keys with numbers, corresponding to digits 0-9. The references provide no motivation to label the remaining 16 keys with numbers to arrive at claim 42, nor suggest how or why that would be done.

In addition, claim 42 further recites outputting telephony tone signals from a "keyboard" with 26 letter keys. This, also, is not disclosed or suggested by the references. Nishimoto discloses outputting telephony tone signals, which are based on a 10-digit numbering system, from a 10-digit telephone keypad. There is no suggestion to do the same with Nokia's 26-letter "keyboard". In fact, Nokia teaches away from doing so by providing ten designated number keys for outputting telephony tone signals.

Therefore, on multiple grounds, claim 42 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claim 47

Claim 47 recites a keyboard with 26 keys. Similar to claim 42, each of the 26 keys is labeled with a different letter of the alphabet and assigned a number. Also similar to claim 42, for each key pressed by a user, a telephony tone signal is generated, corresponding to the number assigned to the pressed key. Therefore, claim 47 is patentable over the cited references for the reasons explained above regarding claim 42.

Independent Claim 51

Claim 51 recites a device having a keyboard with letters arranged in a QWERTY configuration. For each letter pressed by a user, the device communicates a number in the range 0-9 that is assigned to the pressed letter.

This is not suggested by Nishimoto in view of Engelke. Nishimoto (Fig. 11) discloses a non-QWERTY 10-digit (digits 0-9) telephone keypad for communicating numbers, with 8 of the digits (digits 2-9) labeled with letters. Engelke (Fig. 1) discloses a QWERTY keyboard 22 for communicating letters.

The references provide no suggestion to rearrange Nishimoto's eight letter-labeled keys (digits 2-9) into Engelke's QWERTY configuration to arrive at claim 51. In fact the skilled person would be dissuaded from doing so for several reasons: 1) A QWERTY arrangement of only eight letter-labeled keys would look odd. 2) It would move the digits into locations that are unrelated to their numerical values and thus difficult for the user to find. 3) Both Nishimoto and Engelke teach away from doing so, by consistently showing that keys that communicate numbers (Nishimoto's keypad 108 and Engelke's keypad 24) be arranged according to those numbers, not according to labeled letters (as in a QWERTY arrangement).

Therefore, claim 51 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Dependent Claims 43-46, 48-50 and 52-53

The remaining claims all depend from base claims that are explained above to be patentable over the prior art. The limitations that the dependent claims add to the base claims distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, the dependent claims are also patentable over the prior art.

The application is therefore now in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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